

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hotline
(360) 902-2500
Coastal Commercial Message

Commercial Msg. 8

This commercial hotline message # 8 was recorded July 9, 2015, updating the status of the coastal commercial fisheries.

Commercial Troll

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 22 FISHERY

Washington catch areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be open for all salmon beginning July 1. The fishery will be open Friday through Tuesday July 10 to September 22. There is a landing and possession limit for each open period of 75 Chinook and 50 marked coho per vessel in Areas 1 and 2. There is a landing and possession limit for each open period of 60 Chinook and 50 marked coho per vessel in Areas 3 and 4. No vessel may possess land or deliver more than 75 chinook and 50 marked coho during any open period. The fishery will be open until reaching the earliest of September 22 or quota of 26,800 Chinook, no more than 11,000 of which may be caught in the area between the U.S.-Canada border and the Queets River, or 19,200 marked coho. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip; no chum retention north of Cape Alava during August and September. Gear is restricted to all legal troll gear with single point, single shank barbless hooks **only**. Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery Control Zone and Columbia Control Zones closed. The Grays Harbor Control Zone will be closed beginning August 10th. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. **Vessels in possession of salmon north of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360)902-2739 or by email at Douglas.Milward@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch on board, and destination. Vessels in possession of salmon south of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360)902-2739 or by email at Douglas.Milward@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch on board, and destination.** Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing north of Leadbetter Point must land their fish within the area and north of Leadbetter Point. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point. The minimum size limit for chinook is 28 inches and 16 inches for coho.

HALIBUT

The operator of a vessel that has been issued an incidental halibut harvest license may retain Pacific halibut caught incidentally in area 2A during authorized periods while trolling for salmon. License holders may land no more than 1 halibut per each 4 Chinook, except 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement. No more than 12 halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must meet the minimum size limit of 32 inches total length with head on. Additional halibut harvest may be authorized if announced on the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825. In-season action may be taken to avoid exceeding the commercial halibut allocation.

The Washington State Quick Reporting System will be in effect throughout the 2015 commercial troll fishery. All wholesale dealers or trollers retailing their fish will be required to report their landing by 10:00 AM the day following delivery. Reports can be made by telephoning 1-866-791-1279 or faxing to 1-360-902-2949 and reporting the fish ticket number, the gear, the dealer name, the dealer number, the catch area, the date of landing, the number of days fished, the number of fish by species and the total weight by species including halibut.

If you have any questions about the troll fishery please call Doug Milward at 360-902-2739 before going fishing.

Commercial troll fisheries are managed on a quota. Open days, landing and possession limits or any other regulation could change at any time. Always contact the fisheries hotline (1-360-902-2500) prior to going fishing.

Thank you for calling the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife coastal commercial hotline.